(b) whether in the six months period ending September 30, freight traffic of the Indian Railways amounted to 401.89 million tonnes up from 370.25 million tonnes during the same period last year recording a growth of 8 per cent; and

(c) if so, the details of the projects that have been affected and the steps being considered in this regard to meet the global crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Transportation is a derived demand based on the growth in the economy. In the month of Oct.'08 and Nov.'08, the actual loading of originating freight on Indian Railways was less than the expected growth.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Ongoing railway projects related to new line, gauge conversion and doubling are not affected because of economic slowdown.

Rail link from India to Nepal

1389. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has pointed out that report on 46 kilometre long route from New Jalpaiguri in India to Kakrabitta in Nepal has been submitted to the Ministry of External Affairs;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has considered the report;

(c) if so, by when final decision in regard to implement the project is likely to be taken; and

(d) by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Railway projects from Madhya Pradesh

1390. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway projects received from the State of Andhra Pradesh during last three years, year-wise;

(b) the action taken by Government thereon;

(c) the details of the works undertaken for improvement and expansion of railway network in Andhra Pradesh during the said period; and

(d) the expenditure incurred thereon during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.